CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1540

Chapter 92, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature
2025 Regular Session

TRIBAL COLLEGES—STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2025

Passed by the House February 20, 2025
Yeas 62 Nays 33

LAURIE JINKINS

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 8, 2025
Yeas 45 Nays 4

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved April 21, 2025 9:48 AM

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1540** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 21, 2025

Secretary of State
State of Washington

HOUSE BILL 1540

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Timmons, Eslick, Ortiz-Self, Ramel, Reed, Duerr, Kloba, Macri, Callan, Zahn, Ormsby, Pollet, Scott, Doglio, Hill, and Simmons; by request of Student Achievement Council

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

AN ACT Relating to expanding eligibility for the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth program to an accredited tribal college; and amending RCW 28B.77.850.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 28B.77.850 and 2023 c 339 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, each public four-year institution of higher education and a public tribal college located in Washington and accredited by the northwest commission on colleges and universities or another accrediting association recognized by the United States department of education may implement a program to provide assistance to students experiencing homelessness and to students who were in the foster care system when they graduated high school. The program must provide certain accommodations to these students that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Access to laundry facilities;

(b) Access to storage;

(c) Access to locker room and shower facilities;

(d) Reduced-price meals or meal plans, and access to food banks;

(e) Access to technology;

(f) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance, especially during seasonal breaks; and

(g) Case management services.

(2) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal college may also establish plans to develop surplus property for affordable housing to accommodate the needs of students experiencing homelessness and students who were in the foster care system when they graduated high school.

(3) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal college participating in the program shall leverage existing community resources by making available to students in the program information that is available for individuals experiencing homelessness, including through not-for-profit organizations, the local housing authority, and the department of commerce's office of homeless youth.

(4) The four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal college participating in the program shall annually provide a joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 beginning December 1, 2023, that includes at least the following information:

(a) The number of students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, and the number of students who were in the foster care system when they graduated high school who attended a four-year institution of higher education or a tribal college during the program. The council shall coordinate with all of the four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal college to collect voluntary data on how many students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity are attending the four-year institutions of higher education and the tribal college;

(b) The number of students assisted by the program;

(c) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students; and

(d) Legislative recommendations for how students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, and former foster care students could be better served.

(5) For purposes of this section, "program" means the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth program.

Passed by the House February 20, 2025.
Passed by the Senate April 8, 2025.
Approved by the Governor April 21, 2025.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 21, 2025.

--- END ---